

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A mount suitable for passive-active vibration isolation in association with variable loading; [.] said mount comprising a first member for attaching to a first entity, a second member for attaching to a second entity, at least one streamlined resilient element member, and at least one structurally-positionally and functionally-directionally collocational combination of a sensor and an actuator; said actuator approximately being characterized by an annular shape, a geometric circumference and a geometric center; said sensor being positioned approximately at said geometric center of said actuator; said actuator and said sensor sharing approximately the same functional direction; each of said at least one streamlined resilient element at least substantially consisting of an at least substantially solid elastomeric material; each of said at least one streamlined resilient element [[and]] being interposed between said first member and said second member so as to be connected to said second member at a position corresponding to the interior of said geometric circumference; said first member approximately describing a first geometric plane; said second member approximately describing a second geometric plane that which is approximately parallel to said first geometric plane; each of said at least one streamlined resilient element at least substantially describing a curved profile in a third geometric plane which perpendicularly intersects said first plane geometric plane and said second geometric plane; each of said at least one streamlined resilient element being characterized by low dynamic load transmissibility of vibration in approximately the same passivity-related a single frequency bandwidth over a broad range of

20 loading to which said streamlined resilient element is being subjected; each of said at least one streamlined resilient element being characterized by nonlinear deflection when subjected to said loading; each of said at least one streamlined resilient element being predisposed to passively reducing vibration at said single passivity-related frequency bandwith regardless of the extent of said loading, within said range, to which said streamlined resilient element is being subjected; said at least one streamlined resilient element thereby being capable of effectuating overall passive reduction of the transmission of vibration from said first member to said second member; said overall passive reduction being of vibration in approximately a first said single passivity-related frequency bandwidth over a broad loading range of said first entity; each said collocational combination having a corresponding region of said second member, said corresponding region corresponding to said collocational combination, each said collocational combination said sensor being capable of generating a sensor signal; said actuator being capable of generating [[and]] an actuator vibratory force; said sensor signal being representative of the total vibration of said second member in the corresponding region and being representable as a control signal; said actuator vibratory force being representative of said control signal; each said collocational combination including said sensor and said actuator thereby being capable of effectuating [[,]] in the corresponding region, localized active reduction of the transmission of total vibration which has reached said second member subsequent to the effectuating of said overall passive reduction; said localized active reduction being of vibration in a non-first said single an activity-related frequency bandwidth, said activity-related frequency bandwith differing which differs from said first passivity-related frequency bandwidth.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A mount as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of said at

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least one streamlined resilient element includes at least one truncation surface, each of said at least one truncation surface adjoining one of said first member and said second member.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A mount as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said at least one streamlined resilient element at least substantially describes a shape which is selected from the group consisting of sphere, prolate spheroid, cylinder, torus and torus segment, and wherein:

each of said at least one streamlined resilient element that at least substantially describes a cylinder shape approximately defines a longitudinal axis that is approximately parallel to said first geometric plane and said second geometric plane;

each of said at least one streamlined resilient element that at least substantially describes a torus shape approximately defines a geometric torus plane that is approximately parallel to said first geometric plane and said second geometric plane; and

each of said at least one streamlined resilient element that at least substantially describes a torus segment shape approximately defines a geometric longitudinal torus segment axis that lies in a geometric torus segment plane that is approximately parallel to said first geometric plane and said second geometric plane.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A mount as recited in claim 3, wherein at least one of said at least one streamlined resilient element includes at least one truncation surface, each of said at least one truncation surface adjoining one of said first member and said second member.

Claim 5 (canceled)

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Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (original): A mount as recited in claim 1, wherein said broad loading range associated with said overall passive reduction is between a minimum load value and a multiple load value of the minimum load value, and wherein said multiple load value is between approximately ten times and approximately one hundred times said minimum load value.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A vibration isolator which is adaptable adapted for engagement with a processor/controller, said processor/controller being capable of generating a control signal, said vibration isolator comprising:

a spring assembly which includes a top member for securing said spring assembly with respect to an isolated entity, a bottom member for securing said spring assembly with respect to an isolatee entity, and at least one interposed streamlined resilient element member, each of said ~~at least one~~ streamlined resilient element member being at least substantially solid and at least substantially composed of an elastomeric material, said top member approximately describing an ~~a~~ first imaginary top plane,[[;]] said bottom member approximately describing an ~~a~~ second imaginary bottom plane which is approximately parallel to said first imaginary top plane,[[;]] each of said ~~at least one~~ streamlined resilient element at least substantially describing a curved profile in an ~~a~~ third imaginary elemental plane which perpendicularly intersects said first imaginary top plane and said second imaginary bottom plane,[[;]] each of said ~~at least one~~ streamlined resilient element member having the property of passively reducing vibration within a special passive-reduction-related frequency bandwidth which is at least substantially constant when said streamlined resilient element member is subjected to a wide range in terms of the

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degree of loading, each of said at least one streamlined resilient element having the property of nonlinear deflection when subjected to a degree of said loading within said wide range,[[;]] each of said at least one streamlined resilient element passively reducing vibration at least substantially within said special passive-reduction-related frequency bandwidth regardless of the degree of said loading within said wide range, said at least one streamlined resilient element member thereby being capable in net effect of passively reducing vibration within a general passive-reduction-related frequency bandwidth which is approximately commensurate with said special passive-reduction-related bandwidth and which is at least substantially constant when said at least one streamlined resilient element member is subjected to a wide range in terms of the degree of loading which is associated with at least one of said isolated entity and said isolatee entity;

a at least one sensor which is[[,]] each said sensor being coupled with said bottom member and which is being capable of generating a sensor signal which is in accordance with the vibration in a local zone of interest in said bottom member; and

an approximately ring-shaped at least one actuator which is[[,]] each said actuator being coupled with said bottom member and which is approximately concentrically being collocational paired with [[one]] said sensor so as to that said sensor and said actuator are approximately characterized by a common share approximate coincidence with respect to both physical situation and operational direction, [[each]] said actuator being capable of generating[[,]] in said bottom member local zone of interest of said sensor with which said actuator is collocational paired; a vibratory force which is in accordance with said control signal, wherein said control signal is in accordance with said sensor signal which is generated by said sensor with which said actuator is collocational paired, wherein said vibratory force has

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the tendency of actively reducing vibration within an active-reduction-related frequency bandwidth which differs from said general passive-reduction-related bandwidth, wherein said actuator approximately describes an imaginary cylindrical actuator shape having an imaginary cylindrical actuator axis which perpendicularly intersects said imaginary top plane and said imaginary bottom plane, and wherein said at least one streamlined resilient element is positioned at least substantially inside said imaginary cylindrical actuator shape which is approximately described by said actuator.



Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): A vibration isolator as defined in claim 8, wherein at least one of said at least one streamlined resilient element includes at least one truncation surface, each said truncation surface adjoining one of said top member and said bottom member.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A vibration isolator as defined in claim 8, wherein:

to at least a substantial degree, each said streamlined resilient element has a shape which is selected from the group consisting of spherical, prolate spheroidal, cylindrical, toroidal and segmentedly toroidal;

said cylindrical streamlined resilient element approximately defines an imaginary central cylindrical elemental axis which is approximately intermediate and approximately parallel to said imaginary top upper plane and said imaginary bottom lower plane;

said toroidal streamlined resilient element approximately defines an imaginary central axis which lies in toroidal elemental a third plane which is approximately intermediate and

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approximately parallel to said imaginary top first plane and said imaginary bottom second plane;

and

said segmentedly toroidal streamlined resilient element approximately defines an imaginary central axis which lies in an imaginary segmentedly toroidal elemental a third plane which is approximately intermediate and approximately parallel to said imaginary top first plane and said imaginary bottom second plane.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A vibration isolator as defined in claim 11, wherein at least one of said at least one said streamlined resilient element includes at least one truncation surface, each said truncation surface adjoining one of said top member and said bottom member.

Claim 13 (original): A vibration isolator as defined in claim 8, wherein said wide range, in terms of the degree of loading which is associated with at least one of said isolated entity and said isolatee entity, is approximately a range which is between a minimum loading value and a maximum loading value, said maximum loading value being between ten times and one hundred times said minimum loading value.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A vibration isolation system; said vibration isolation system being for reducing the transmission of vibration of a first entity to a second entity; said vibration isolation system comprising a spring assembly and a feedback loop system; said spring assembly being for effectuating global passive vibration control; said feedback loop system being for effectuating localized active vibration control subsequent to said effectuating of said global passive vibration control; said spring assembly including a first securing member, a second

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securement member and at least one interposed streamlined resilient element; each of said at least one streamlined resilient element being situated between and adjoining said first securement member and said second securement member; said first securement member being for securing said spring assembly with respect to said first entity; said second securement member being for securing said spring assembly with respect to said second entity; each of said at least one streamlined resilient member being essentially solid and essentially elastomeric; each of said at least one streamlined resilient element passively reducing the transmission of vibration of said first entity to said second entity; each of said at least one streamlined resilient element being characterized by nonlinear deflection when subjected to loading; said first securement member approximately describing a first geometric plane; said second securement member approximately describing a second geometric plane which is approximately parallel to said first geometric plane; each of said at least one streamlined resilient element at least substantially describing a curved profile in a third geometric plane which perpendicularly intersects said first geometric plane and said second geometric plane; said passively reduced vibration existing in at least a first frequency bandwidth; said first frequency bandwidth being generally constant within a broad scope of the amount of loading upon said at least one streamlined resilient element by at least one of said first entity and said second entity; said at least one streamlined resilient element passively reducing vibration in said at least a first frequency bandwidth regardless of the amount of loading upon said at least one streamlined element within said broad scope of the amount of loading; said feedback loop system including a ~~at least one~~ sensor, a PID controller and ~~an annular~~ at least one actuator; said ~~at least one~~ sensor being coupled with said second securement member; each said sensor generating a sensor signal which is a function of the vibration in a localized control area of said second securement

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member; said PID controller generating a at least one control signal which is a function of said at least one sensor signal; said annular at least one actuator being coupled with said second securement member; each said annular actuator generating, in said second securement member localized control area, a vibratory force which is a function of [[a]] said control signal; said annular at least one actuator, by said generating, actively reducing the transmission of vibration of said first entity to said second entity; said actively reduced vibration existing in at least a second frequency bandwidth; said at least a first frequency bandwidth and said at least a second frequency bandwidth being generally dissimilar; said at least one sensor and said annular at least one actuator being approximately coaxially situated collocated whereby each said sensor and one said actuator are approximately coincident and whereby the sensing of each said sensor and the actuation of the corresponding said actuator are approximately in the same direction; each of said at least one streamlined resilient element adjoining said second securement member at a location circumscribed by said annular actuator.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The vibration isolation system according to claim 14, wherein at least one of said at least one said streamlined resilient element at least substantially defines a spherical shape that is approximately coaxially situated with respect to said annular actuator.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The vibration isolation system according to claim 14, wherein at least one of said at least one said streamlined resilient element at least substantially defines a prolate spheroidal shape that is approximately coaxially situated with respect to said annular actuator.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): The vibration isolation system according to claim 14, wherein at least one of said at least one said streamlined resilient element at least substantially defines a torus shape that is approximately coaxially situated with respect to said annular actuator.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The vibration isolation system according to claim 14, wherein at least two of one said at least one streamlined resilient element each at least substantially define defines a segmented torus shape and are situated so as to together approximately describe a torus shape that is approximately coaxially situated with respect to said annular actuator.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The vibration isolation system according to claim 14, wherein at least one of said at least one said streamlined resilient element includes at least one truncation surface, each said truncation surface adjoining one of said first securement member and said second securement member.

Claim 21 (original): The vibration isolation system according to claim 14, wherein said broad scope of the amount of loading approximately ranges between a minimum loading amount and a maximum loading amount, and wherein said maximum loading amount is approximately between ten times and one hundred times said minimum loading amount.

Claim 22 (currently amended): Apparatus for both passively and actively isolating the vibration of a structure situated over a foundation, said apparatus comprising:

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a processor/controller;
a spring device which passively reduces the transmission of said vibration from said structure to said foundation, said spring device including an upper member for fixing said spring device with respect to said structure, a lower member for fixing said spring device with respect to said foundation, and at least one streamlined resilient element, whercin:

each of said at least one streamlined resilient element is solid and elastomeric and is so configured as to at least substantially exhibit the attribute of effecting passive reduction of the vibration existing at least nearly the identical frequency band over a significant range of the degree of loading imposed upon said streamlined resilient element;

each of said at least one streamlined resilient element has a configuration describing a curved profile in a third geometric plane which perpendicularly intersects a first geometric plane defined by said upper member and a second geometric plane defined by said lower member;

said significant range is between a minimum degree of loading and a maximum degree of loading;

each of said at least one streamlined resilient element is characterized by nonlinear deflection when a degree of said loading within said significant range is imposed upon said streamlined resilient element;

each said at least one streamlined resilient element effects passive reduction of vibration at least substantially within said significant range regardless of the degree of said loading, within said wide range, imposed upon said at least one streamlined resilient element;

said maximum degree of loading is no less than about ten times said minimum degree of loading;

said maximum degree of loading is no more than about one hundred times said minimum degree of loading; and

each of said at least one streamlined resilient element is so configured as to at least substantially describe one of a sphere, a prolate spheroid, a cylinder, a torus and a torus segment; and

the combination including at least one collocation of a sensor and an annular actuator wherein[,,] for each said collocation:

said sensor and said actuator are each coupled with said lower member so that said sensor and said actuator are as to be approximately identically located and approximately identically directed aligned both centrically and directionally, and so that said actuator encompasses an area of said lower member;

said at least one streamlined resilient element is coupled with said upper member and is coupled with said lower member within said area of said lower member that is encompassed by said actuator;

said sensor senses the local vibration in a portion of said lower member and produces an electrical sensor signal commensurate with said local vibration;

said processor/controller receives said electrical sensor signal from said sensor and produces an electrical control signal commensurate with said electrical sensor signal; and

said actuator receives said electrical control signal from said processor/controller and produces in said portion of said lower member a vibratory force commensurate with

said electrical control signal, said vibratory force increasing the stability of said portion of said lower member, said actuator thereby effecting active reduction of the transmission of said vibration from said structure to said foundation whereby, in succession, said spring device passively reduces the transmission of said vibration and said actuator actively reduces the transmission of said vibration.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein at least one of said at least one said streamlined resilient element is at least slightly truncated for facilitating connection to said upper member.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method for reducing transmission of vibration of a first entity to a second entity, said method comprising:

providing a spring assembly which includes at least one streamlined resilient member element, an upper securement member and a lower securement member, said at least one streamlined resilient element being situated between and attached to said upper securement member and said lower securement member, said at least one streamlined resilient element member being essentially solid and essentially elastomeric and being for passively reducing the transmission of vibration existing in at least a first plurality of frequencies, said first plurality of frequencies falling within a generally constant bandwidth in relation to a range of loading imposed upon said at least one streamlined resilient element by at least one of said first entity and said second entity, said range being between a minimum degree of loading and a maximum degree of loading, said upper securement member approximately describing a first geometric plane; said lower securement member approximately describing a second geometric plane, said

first geometric plane and said second geometric plane being approximately parallel, each of said at least one streamlined resilient element being shaped so as to at least substantially describe a curved profile in a third geometric plane which perpendicularly intersects said first geometric plane and said second geometric plane, each of said at least one streamlined resilient element being characterized by nonlinear deflection when a degree of loading within said range is imposed upon said streamlined resilient element, each said at least one streamlined resilient element effecting passive reduction of vibration at least substantially within said range regardless of the degree of loading within said range imposed upon said at least one streamlined resilient element; said maximum degree of loading being no less than about ten times said minimum degree of loading, said maximum degree of loading being no more than about one hundred times said minimum degree of loading, each of said at least one streamlined resilient element being shaped so as to at least substantially describe one of a sphere, a prolate spheroid, a cylinder, a torus and a torus segment; and

engaging with said spring assembly a feedback loop system, said engaging including:

establishing at least one collocation of approximately concentrically attaching a sensor and a generally ring-shaped with a corresponding vibratory actuator so that said sensor and said corresponding said vibratory actuator are each coupled with to said lower securing member at approximately the same location, and so that said sensor senses and said corresponding said vibratory actuator actuates in approximately the same direction, and so that the attachment of said at least one streamlined resilient element to said lower securing member exists within the region of said lower securing member that is delimited by the attachment of said vibratory actuator to said lower securing member and in approximately the same locality of said lower securing member;

connecting each said sensor and each said vibratory actuator with a processor/controller so that[[,]] for each said collocation; said sensor generates a sensor signal representative of the vibration of said locality lower securement member, said processor-controller generates a control signal representative of said sensor signal, and said vibratory actuator generates a vibratory force representative of said control signal; and

providing power for said feedback loop system; and
mounting said first entity with respect to said second entity, said mounting including fastening said first entity with respect to said upper securement member and fastening said second entity with respect to said lower securement member; wherein, in series, said spring assembly effects passive reduction of said vibration at said first plurality of frequencies, then said feedback loop system effects active reduction of said vibration at a second plurality of frequencies; and
wherein at least one frequency among said second plurality of frequencies is not among said first plurality of frequencies.

Claim 25 (original): A method for reducing transmission of vibration as recited in claim 24, wherein said providing a spring assembly includes:

providing a streamlined resilient element which has a first truncation surface and a second truncation surface opposite said first truncation surface; and
joining said streamlined resilient element with each of said upper securement member and said lower securement member so that said first truncation surface abuts said upper securement member, and so that said second truncation surface abuts said lower securement

member.

Claim 26 (original): A method for reducing transmission of vibration as recited in claim 25, wherein said providing a streamlined resilient element includes effecting said first truncation surface and effecting said second truncation surface.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The vibration isolation system according to claim 14, wherein at least one of said at least one said streamlined resilient element at least substantially defines a cylindrical shape.

Claim 28 (new): A mount as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least one streamlined resilient element at least substantially describes a torus shape that approximately defines a geometric torus plane and a geometric torus axis of symmetry, wherein:

said geometric torus plane is approximately parallel to said first geometric plane and said second geometric plane;

said geometric torus axis of symmetry is approximately perpendicular to said first geometric plane, said second geometric plane and said geometric torus plane; and

said geometric torus axis of symmetry approximately passes through said geometric center of said actuator.

Claim 29 (new): A mount as recited in claim 1, wherein at least two of said at least one streamlined resilient element each at least substantially describe a torus segment shape so as to, in aggregation, approximately describe a torus shape that defines a geometric torus plane and a

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geometric torus axis of symmetry, wherein:

 said geometric torus plane is approximately parallel to said first geometric plane and said second geometric plane;

 said geometric torus axis of symmetry is approximately perpendicular to said first geometric plane, said second geometric plane and said geometric torus plane; and

 said geometric torus axis of symmetry approximately passes through said geometric center of said actuator.

Claim 30 (new): The vibration isolation system according to claim 14, wherein said at least one streamlined resilient element is approximately symmetrical with respect to the geometric axis with respect to which said sensor and said annular actuator are approximately coaxially situated.

Claim 31 (new): The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said at least one streamlined resilient element is characterized by approximate symmetry about the geometric line that:

 is perpendicular to said first geometric plane and said second geometric plane; and
 intersects a geometric point of said lower member corresponding to said approximately concentric alignment of said sensor and said actuator.